



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Largest Waste Generators to Do Source Reduction Planning

SACRAMENTO--- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced a new source reduction, monitoring and tracking procedure for California's large waste generators, empowered by amendments to the Hazardous Waste Source Reduction and Management Review Act of 1989 (SB14), which was codified by AB 1089 (Miller, Chapter 520, Statutes of 1997).

"Since the inception of SB14, there has been an implied incentive for California companies to do a good job in source reduction planning," said DTSC Director Ed Lowry. "The amendments from AB 1089 provide DTSC with the tools to strengthen our efforts to collect and measure data on the source reduction progress of waste generators. This will continue California's leadership role in pollution prevention activities that help make our environment safer and cleaner."

If a business/organization generated more than 12,000 kilograms (13.2 tons) of hazardous waste or 12 kilograms of extremely hazardous waste (including aqueous wastes) during calendar year 1998, it must comply with SB 14. These businesses/organizations must identify their major waste streams, evaluate source reduction opportunities and prepare documentation of their efforts.

Under the requirements large quantity generators are required to conduct a review of their hazardous waste generating processes and to find ways to reduce the amount of wastes they produce. Generators must conduct a source reduction evaluation of their site and prepare a Source Reduction Plan (Plan), a Hazardous Waste Management Performance Report (Report) and a Summary Progress Report (SPR).

California generators were first required to comply with the requirements of SB 14 in September 1991, and must update their planning activities every four years. The next compliance deadline for the preparation of Plans, Reports and the SPRs is September 1, 1999.

Under the law and regulations adopted by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), generators are provided the flexibility to use knowledge of their own operations and procedures to develop what they consider to be their best approaches to reduce hazardous waste and prevent adverse environmental impact. The law specifies only the type of documentation, verifying a careful and complete review and evaluation of potential source reduction measures. SB 14 does not require that specific waste management actions be taken.

SB 14 mandates that all documents completed under the program be made available to the public, local community, and state and local government inspectors. In addition, the Department plans to make summaries of SB 14 information available through its web site (www.dtsc.ca.gov) beginning in late 1999 or early 2000.

“A review of these documents by concerned citizens and environmental groups is good way to identify generators who are taking a proactive approach to eliminate waste at the source. A lack of pollution prevention progress may be an indication of other waste management problems,” added Lowry.

If a business/organization generated more than 12,000 kilograms (13.2 tons) of hazardous waste or 12 kilograms of extremely hazardous waste (including aqueous wastes) during calendar year 1998, it must comply with SB 14. These businesses/organizations must identify their major waste streams, evaluate source reduction opportunities and prepare documentation of their efforts.

Guidance manuals are available free of charge from the Department to help generators with document preparation. A checklist for small businesses and summary progress report forms are also available.

Source reduction questions should be directed to:
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development
P.O.Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806
(916) 322-3670
(916) 327-4494(fax)
sb14@dtsc.ca.gov

Free Department source reduction publications can be obtained at the following website:
opptddoc.@dtsc.ca.gov.

DTSC is one of six boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.

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